



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-2829

BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

LISA BONNETT, DIRECTOR

Illinois EPA#: 0554645002

Notice #: UIC-01-15EE

UIC Log#: UIC-212-TE-M7

First Notice Date: May 29, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE of EMERGENCY PERMIT EXTENSION Underground Injection Wells at Sugar Camp Mine, Macedonia, IL

The Illinois EPA has extended the emergency Underground Injection Control (UIC) well permit held by Sugar Camp Energy and RGGIS Land & Minerals, Ltd. for the Sugar Camp Mine, 11351 N. Thompsonville Rd., Macedonia, Illinois in accordance with 35 IAC 704.163 until December 31, 2015.

On May 20, 2014, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issued an emergency UIC permit for one year to allow the applicants to construct and, eventually, operate two UIC wells in an effort to manage an unexpectedly large volume of groundwater infiltrating the mine, putting miners at risk; if discharged to surface waters, this wastewater would violate the state's water quality standards for chloride and dissolved solids. The year-long term was also granted to allow the applicants time to apply for and receive a non-emergency UIC permit. Under the emergency permit, once the well construction and completion information was deemed sufficient, the applicants were authorized to inject wastewaters between 7,500 and 12,900 feet underground into limestone and sandstone formations via the two wells. These geological formations are overlain by a 160 foot thick confining layer of shale bedrock, minimizing the potential for injected fluids to migrate upward. The original public notice of the emergency permit was issued May 28, 2014.

The temporary emergency UIC permit was to have expired May 20, 2015; however, the applicants requested an extension to provide the necessary time for the issuance of a non-emergency, long-term UIC permit for operation of the two existing wells and additional wells. The Agency's preparation of a draft non-emergency UIC permit will provide the public a 30-day comment period on that draft permit. Please contact Ms. McGinnis (see below) if you are not already on the mailing list and wish to be added for notice of this future, non-emergency, UIC permitting process.

Those interested may review the emergency permit application materials and the emergency UIC permit at the **Franklin County Board Office** (see Gayla Sink), **Franklin Co. Courthouse, 202 W. Main, Benton, IL.**

The Agency's file information for this emergency permit is available for inspection by appointment only at IEPA's Springfield office. Please contact:

Mara McGinnis (#5)

Phone: 217/524-3288

Illinois EPA

TDD: 217-782-9143

1021 North Grand Avenue East, P. O. Box 19276

Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

The Safe Drinking Water Act established the federal UIC program in order to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water from injection activities. The Illinois EPA is authorized to administer certain aspects of the UIC program in Illinois, including those governing the wells at the Sugar Camp Mine. Illinois' UIC regulations may be found at 35 IAC 702, 704, 705 and 730.

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